

Reportable Ballot Question Activity

Any person or group not defined as a political action committee that solicits and receives contributions or makes expenditures, other than by contribution to a political action committee, aggregating more than \$1,500 for the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating, or influencing in any way a ballot question must file a report with the Commission.

This pamphlet outlines the definitions and reporting requirements that persons participating in the 2006 referendum election should know about.

This material is intended to be a guide only and not a replacement for the law. Persons with questions should review the law and are encouraged to contact the Commission staff prior to taking action.

Legal References

Ballot Question Reporting Requirements:

- 21-A M.R.S.A. §1056-B
- Commission Rules, Ch. 1, Sec. 11

Definition of a Political Action Committee:

- 21-A M.R.S.A. §1052(5)

Mailing Address

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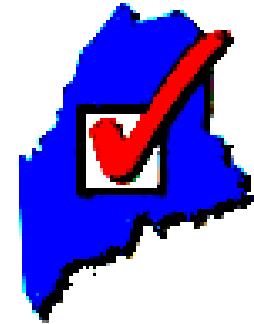
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September 2006

Maine Ethics Commission



*How to Report
Ballot Question
Expenditures*

2006

Understanding the Basics

If your group does not meet the definition of a political action committee (PAC) as defined in 21-A M.R.S.A. §1052(5), but receives or spends more than \$1,500 to influence the outcome of a statewide ballot measure, then you will need to file the Commission's form *Reports of Contributions or Expenditures by Persons Other than Political Action Committees*.

If your only financial activity is to make a contribution to a PAC that will disclose your contribution on a campaign finance report, you do not have to file a report with the Commission.

This requirement does not apply to expenditures you made in candidate elections. A different set of rules apply for those expenditures. Please contact the Commission or review our other pamphlets: *2006 Independent Expenditure Reports* and *Getting Involved in Campaigns for Political Office 2006*.

Election laws, blank forms and other information can be found at:

www.maine.gov/ethics

Filing Requirements

Anyone receiving contributions or making expenditures aggregating more than \$1,500 during the 2006 election must file a report with the Commission. The report must list each ballot question supported or opposed, the amount spent on each ballot measure, and detailed information such as names and addresses of contributors giving more than \$100 in cash or in-kind, and expenditures in cash or in-kind in excess of \$100.

In the case of a municipal ballot question, a copy of the same information may need to be filed with the clerk of the municipality. Please contact your town clerk to find out if this applies to you.

24-Hour Filing Requirement

If your group receives a contribution or makes an expenditure of more than \$500 after October 26th and before 5:00 p.m. on November 6th you must file a 24-Hour Report disclosing such within 24 hours of making the transaction.

“Paid for” Disclosure

Maine law does not require a “paid for” disclosure statement on ballot measure communications, however, the Commission encourages a “paid for” statement for the sake of transparency in Maine elections.

When to File a Report

Under the Election Law, an expenditure is made when an order for goods or services is placed; a promise or agreement (even an implied one) that a payment will be made; the signing of a contract for a good or service; and the delivery of a good or the performance of a service by a vendor. This means that even if there is only an oral agreement with a vendor and no payment has been made, an expenditure has been made and must be reported.

Once the total spent or received for the ballot measure exceeds \$1,500, your group is required to file a report with the Commission. The reporting schedule is outlined below:

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
January 1 to June 1	June 7
June 2 to July 18	July 25
July 19 to October 26	Nov. 1
October 27 to Dec. 12	Dec. 19

The report must be filed on paper. Faxed copies are acceptable provided that the original is filed within 5 calendar days.